

THE JOURNAL



OF THE PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Number 25

October 1990

CONTENTS

Calendar of Coming Events	2
Message from the President	3
Tokens of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society	4
For the Use of the Poor	8
The Bookworm	11
The 1946 Iowa Half Dollar: Part 5	13
The Syngraphics Scene	20
Andre Gretry on Belgium's 1000-Franc Note	22
Medals of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society	24
From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston	26
A New Variety of the Victorian Shilling	28
Medals Round-Up	29
San Francisco Through Its Tokens	31

PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

1915 — Celebrating 75 Years of Service to Numismatics — 1990

610 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

OFFICERS:	President	Rick Webster
	Vice President	Donald G. Burns
	Treasurer	Don T. Thrall
	Secretary	Frank J. Strazzarino
	Governor	Mark Wm. Clark
	Governor	Thomas F. Kelly
	Governor	David W. Lange
	Governor	Calvin J. Rogers

JOURNAL STAFF:

Editors	David F. Cieniewicz Rebecca A. Cieniewicz P.O. Box 2698 Redwood City, CA 94064
Publisher	Paul D. Holtzman
Typesetting & Graphics	Stephen M. Huston

The Journal is the quarterly publication of the *Pacific Coast Numismatic Society*. Annual subscriptions to **The Journal** are \$15.00. Most back issues are available through the Society. PCNS encourages the reprinting of articles from **The Journal**. Permission may be obtained from the editors. © 1990, Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

P.C.N.S. CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

October 24, 1990. Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

From the British Museum to the Old Bailey and Home Free

Speaker: Stephen M. Huston

November 28, 1990. Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

Update on the Iowa Statehood Half Dollar

Speaker: Stan Turrini

December 26, 1990. Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

Annual Holiday Party

with Business Meeting and Elections

Bring refreshments of all sorts for the blowout!

Monthly meetings are held at The Knights of Columbus Hall in San Francisco
2800 Taraval Avenue (1 block west of Sunset). Guests are invited.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Rick Webster



By the time this issue of **The Journal** reaches you, summer will be over. Sadly, for most of us, vacation is over until next year. I hope that your vacation this year was a relaxing and rewarding one.

Many PCNS members spent some of their vacation at the American Numismatic Association Convention in Seattle. Many of our members won awards for the displays they exhibited. Other members received awards for articles they had written. Congratulations to all of our award-winning members. PCNS was also represented at the convention through a display of Panama Pacific International Exposition material from our collection. Thanks again to David Lange for taking the time to put the display together.

While I was on vacation, I was lucky enough to find a few books for my library. However, even more rewarding, I finished a paper I had been working on for a long time. If I can do it, so can you! **The Journal** has expanded from twenty-eight to thirty-two pages. With the addition of four pages, our editors need more articles. If you write an article, it will be read and enjoyed. So write! We want to share your knowledge. We want to learn from what you know.

As always, I hope that you can come to our meetings. We have a new meeting location for the rest of 1990 (see the bottom of the facing page for details). This meeting place worked very well in September and is good for parking in the evenings. We have some wonderful topics in the coming months, so why not come out and join in the fun!

The next **Journal** will be published in January. So let me be the first to wish all of you happy holidays and a safe and prosperous new year.

Rick Webster

TOKENS OF THE PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

by David W. Lange

In addition to the official medallic issues of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society, a number of pieces were coined on behalf of individual members that pertain to the society and its activities. These are more properly classified as tokens. Little is known of the early pieces other than what may be understood from studying the tokens themselves.

The first token identified with PCNS is dated 1930 and exists in both bronze and aluminum strikings. It is self described as a "TOKEN OF ESTEEM" toward Farran Zerbe. At this period in the society's history, Zerbe was only an occasional visitor to its meetings, having permanently relocated in the East. His appearances were much anticipated, and one such occasion provided the instance for this token. The meeting of December 10, 1930, was concluded with a dinner party at the Splendid Grill of the Hotel Whitcomb. Although Zerbe was present the previous July for a Founder's Dinner in his honor, it is not clear from the meeting minutes whether he was present this evening. In any event, these tokens were distributed to all in attendance. The initials H.L.H. and E.R.W. appear on the tokens. Harvey L. Hansen and Ernest R. Wernstrom were among the most active members of the society during the 1930s, and it is likely that they commissioned this issue.

The place of manufacture is unknown as is the number coined, but these pieces are clearly quite rare. I know of only three examples for each metal. A pair of tokens in both metals is held by the society, a second pair is in my own collection, and a third pair is owned by another PCNS member. Other examples certainly exist although they have not come to my attention.

The 200th meeting of PCNS was the occasion for another issue of tokens. Although a banquet was held April 27, 1932, at the Hotel Whitcomb in honor of the occasion, no reference to an issue of tokens is found in the minutes. Previous meetings included reports on the Convention and Medal Fund, but this was likely in anticipation of the American Numismatic Association's 1932 convention in Los Angeles.

Unlike the 1930 token, this issue bears no initials and does not reveal any particulars of its manufacture. It is stylistically similar to the 1930 issue, suggesting that it was coined locally by the same company. The 1932 token, when not tarnished, is clearly revealed to be nickel, although its light weight suggests a bronze host with nickel plating. Spots of verdigris on the society's specimen lend further credence to this notion. The 200th meeting token remains the most enigmatic of all PCNS-related pieces. Only three examples are known to me, these belonging to the collections described above.

More familiar is the token dated July 22, 1936, and commemorating the society's 250th meeting. Again, this issue honors Farran Zerbe who was indeed present for the occasion along with Mrs. Zerbe. The society's meeting room at the Hotel Whitcomb was decorated with memorabilia from its twenty-one-year history. As reported by Secretary Hansen, the members, wives and guests present were "too numerous to list". President Arthur Wyman presented Zerbe with a specimen of the bronze token prepared for the occasion. Presumably, the remainder were distrib-

uted to others present. The place of manufacture is unknown.

This issue may have been coined in greater quantity than previous tokens, but the actual number is unknown. The society's membership had grown since 1932, and this occasion was more thoroughly planned. In addition, at least one piece has appeared recently in the marketplace to supplement the three accounted for in the aforementioned collections.

More than 30 years passed before another token was created for PCNS. At the meeting of December 27, 1972, President Ruth Ludwigsen invited the members to attend her wedding the following Saturday to S. Everett Phillips. As Phillips was then president of the California State Numismatic Association, this occasion was of interest to all those who followed organized numismatics in California. PCNS Past-President Don Thrall prepared 250 brass tokens commemorating this, the 682nd meeting of the society and the betrothal of two prominent figures in regional numismatics. He presented one of these tokens to Ludwigsen. The remainder were made available to the members at \$1 apiece. These were later purchased by the society from Thrall at cost. One-hundred-twenty-five pieces had already been sold up to that time (1973) according to Treasurer Jay Patterson. It was anticipated that the remainder would be distributed as door prizes at the Spring 1973 convention of CSNA. Whether or not this was actually done does not appear in the minutes. However, the society still had some on hand as late as 1988. At that time, they were being used as raffle prizes or were being sold to new members at \$3 apiece. All have now been disbursed although they still turn up from time to time in stocks of local dealers.

The final entry to date in the field of PCNS-related tokens is the piece struck for the society's anniversary banquet in 1978. Specifically, it recognizes the contributions of Maxine Bryce in the following legend: HONORING MAXINE BRYCE SECRETARY AND EDITOR FOR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE SOCIETY AND NUMISMATICS.

This token is similar to the 1972 issue in both size and fabric. It was likewise commissioned by Don Thrall and struck by Patrick & Co. The number coined is believed to be approximately 100, and many of these were distributed to the 41 persons in attendance at the banquet. Most of the remainder were given to Bryce that same evening by Thrall. When Bryce's estate was settled a few years later, most of those tokens were again made available to PCNS members and distributed in a fashion similar to that of the 1972 tokens. Although of relatively recent manufacture, the Bryce tokens have become somewhat scarce.

The Bryce token is dated June 24, 1978. In addition, it carries the notation "784TH MEETING". As this was actually the society's 748th meeting, the entire issue is in error.

A silver piece bearing the same inscriptions was presented to Bryce at the banquet. This, however, was a silver uniface medal from the 1975 striking, and the inscriptions are engraved upon it directly. It is, therefore, an individual presentation piece and will not be enumerated in the catalog of PCNS tokens.

The author is interested in determining the number of 1940 medals and 1930, 1932 and 1936 tokens known to readers of **The Journal**. Owners of such pieces are asked to respond to him at P.O. Box 190476, San Francisco, CA 94119. All replies will be kept confidential and the results of the survey, if any, will be announced (all names omitted).

A Catalog of PCNS Tokens

1. OBV: TOKEN / OF / ESTEEM / 1930 / H.L.H. E.R.W.
REV: FARRAN ZERBE / FOUNDER / P.C.N.S. / SAN FRANCISCO / 1915
Round, 30.5mm, plain edge, bronze, brilliant, manufacturer unknown,
number coined unknown.
2. Same as Number 1, except struck in aluminum.
3. OBV: 200TH / MEETING / APRIL 27TH / 1932
REV: PACIFIC / COAST / NUMISMATIC / SOCIETY
Round, 30mm, plain edge, nickel-plated bronze(?), prooflike, manufacturer
unknown, number coined unknown.
4. OBV: PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY / 250TH / MEETING /
JULY 22, / 1936
REV: HONOR / GUEST / FARRAN ZERBE / FOUNDER
Round, 34.5mm, plain edge, bronze, brilliant, manufacturer unknown,
number coined unknown.
5. OBV: HONORING / P.C.N.S. PRESIDENT / RUTH LUDWIGSEN / AND /
C.S.N.A. PRESIDENT / S. EVERETT PHILLIPS / BETROTHED
REV: PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY / 682ND MEETING /
DECEMBER 27, 1972
Round, 39mm, plain edge, brass, brilliant, struck by Patrick & Co. of San
Francisco, 250 coined, \$1 at issue.
6. OBV: HONORING / MAXINE BRYCE / SECRETARY & EDITOR / FOR
YEARS OF / SERVICE TO THE / SOCIETY AND / NUMISMATICS
REV: PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY / 784TH MEETING /
JUNE 24, / 1978
Round, 39mm, plain edge, brass, brilliant, struck by Patrick & Co. of San
Francisco, California, estimated 100 coined.

*Information on the Bryce token was provided in part by Stephen M. Huston who
assisted with the Bryce Estate.*

**The Continental Congress issued \$241,552,780
of Continental Currency
during the American Revolution.**



PCNS Token 1-2



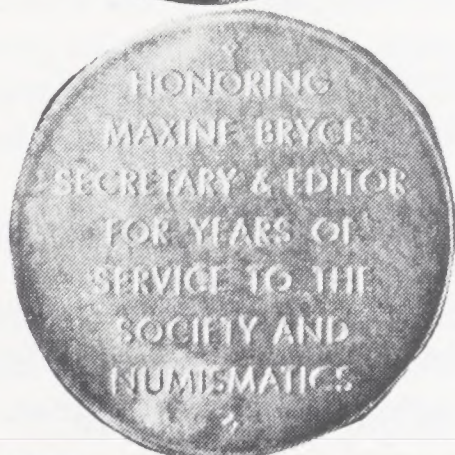
Token 3



Token 4



Token 5



Token 6



"FOR THE USE OF THE POOR"

by L. V. Reppeteau

The mail auction catalog entry read:

British Isles

Lot 521. 17th C. (Norfolk#286) Great Yarmouth, 1667, FOR THE USE OF THE POOR Bz 18 VF (\$25)

What with today's news media featuring stories concerning the plight of the poor, the phrase "FOR THE USE OF THE POOR" on a seventeenth century English token was to me most intriguing. It was intriguing enough, in fact, to send me to the catalog reference used by the auctioneer, Williamson's *Trade Tokens*, issued in the seventeenth century. There, in volume 2, listed under Yarmouth, Norfolk County, was the following description:

Obv. GREAT.YARMVTH.1667 = The arms of the borough of Yarmouth; per pale three demi-lions passant gardant.

Rev. FOR.THE.VSE.OF.THE.Poor = The same arms, Mint-mark, a full bloom rose. large 1/4

The accompanying text states that these tokens were used as "farthings, for the payment of the poor."

With my curiosity now thoroughly aroused, I submitted a bid. Fortunately, the numismatic gods smiled upon me and mine was the winning bid. Now being able to examine the token, I learned:

1. The piece was struck on a brass flan, 18mm in diameter and 2.75 grams.
2. Execution of the die lettering and overall design is indicative of the work of a master die sinker, possibly an ex-mint employee or one moonlighting.
3. The token that I now own is one of three major varieties, of which two are dated 1667 and one 1669.



Great Yarmouth Poor Token

The Yarmouth "poor" token's roots go back in time to Henry VIII (1509-1547). Prior to 1535, the Catholic Church had been charged with the operation of almshouses and providing hospital care for the poor. However, with the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VII (circa 1537-1540), this responsibility was transferred to the local parishes who were to serve as *voluntary* collection agencies. (Hmmm. Today's "thousand points of light"?)

As is often the way, voluntary contributions fell short of actual need. So, under the "Poor Laws of 1598 and 1601", based on the principal that a man was entitled to relief from the "place of his birth", responsibility for charity administration was assigned to the justices of the peace of each parish. These local magistrates were authorized to impose compulsory levies upon the members of their parishes. Funds

thus raised were dispensed by the overseers of the poor, unpaid positions appointed by the local vestry. This Elizabethan legislation became the basis of all English poor laws until 1834.

No official copper coins were issued in England between the years of 1643 and 1672. First, the kingdom was rocked by civil war (1642-1649) during which silver pennies and halfpennies were struck by both the Royalists and Rebels. Then, in the period of the commonwealth (1649-1660), consideration was given to minting copper farthings (1/4 pennies), but no action was taken, and the silver pennies and halfpennies continued to be struck. When Charles II came to the throne in 1660, he, too, resisted the issuance of copper coins until 1672, arguing that it was below the dignity of the throne to issue coins of a base metal.

With the government's failure to address the need of the public for a small coin (i.e. farthing)) compounded by the traditional hoarding of precious metal coins in times of trouble and unrest, it fell upon the merchants to take action. As early as 1648, London merchants had commenced issuing copper farthings and some halfpennies of their own design. This solution rapidly spread across the kingdom, and over 12,000 varieties of such private tokens were issued until being outlawed in 1672.

The English Civil War, as all civil wars, took its greatest toll upon the poor who often migrated towards the cities and larger towns to escape persecution for either religious beliefs or from land ravaged by fighting. The coming of peace in 1649 did little to reduce the charity rolls. Now there were ex-soldiers of two armies roaming the countryside, many who through the fortunes of war no longer had homes to which they could return.

Following the example of the merchants, in 1667 various overseers of the poor commenced issuing their own farthing tokens. Such tokens were given to the poor who in turn would use them to make necessary purchases from the local merchants. When a storekeeper had accumulated, as example, 48 such tokens, he could exchange them with the overseer of the poor for a silver shilling.

Williamson's catalog has the following extract from the Town Books of Yarmouth which may serve as the birth announcement of that city's poor token:

June 6, 1667. At this assembly it is approved of what the overseers have done in getting a stamp for farthings, for payment of the poor; and that the overseers from time to time shall give fore those farthings the value in silver to any that shall bring the same unto them to be changed.

The end of both the merchant and overseers of the poor tokens was heralded by an official announcement in the London Gazette of July 25, 1672:

That it was his Majesty's pleasure that no person or persons should for the future make coin, or exchange, or use any farthings or tokens, except such as should be coined in his Majesty's mint, His Majesty having given directions for the speedy making of considerable quantity of farthings to be made current for exchange of his Monies by his Proclamation.

That is followed in August by the official proclamation that reads in part:

...all persons who should offer after the first day of September (1672) to

make, vend, or utter any kind of pence, halfpence, or farthings, or other pieces of brass, copper or other base metal other than the coins authorized above, or should offer to counterfeit any of His Majesty's halfpence or farthings, are to be chastised with exemplary severity.

Again by turning to Williamson, we gain an insight to the closing chapter of the Yarmouth poor token with another entry from the Town Book:

August 31, 1672. Ordered that the Bellman goe about and give notice, that whosoever bring in any of the Towne farthings before Wednesday night next shall have the value in silver, from the money gathered for the relief of the poor.

So ends the story of my Yarmouth poor token. If now you were to ask what is it, my reply will be "Oh, a seventeenth century metallic food stamp."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Berry, George, *Discovering Trade Tokens*, Shire Publications, U.K., 1969.
Hamilton, Henry, *England: A History of the Homeland*, W.W. Norton & Co. Ltd, New York, 1948.
Hanson, T., *Coin Collecting*, Wm. Collins Sons & Co. Ltd, London/Glasgow, 1965.
Lowe, Geoffrey J., *An Introduction to British Tokens*, Numismatic Association, British Columbia, 1974.
Newmark, Jim, *Trade Tokens of the Industrial Revolution*, Shire Publications Ltd, 1981.
Schimmel, Jerry F., *Mail Auction #20*, October 22, 1989, San Francisco.
Thomas, Iain C., *Seventeenth Century Tokens*, Seaby Coin & Medal Bulletin, London, February 1966, pp.50, 55.
Williamson, George C. (ed), *Trade Tokens Issued in the Seventeenth Century*, three volumes, B.A. Seaby Ltd, London, Reprints of 1967.



MARK WM. CLARK

New World Antiquities

Precolumbian — Art — Antiques — Artifacts
World Numismatics — Currency — Exonumia
Books — Paper Americana — Odd & Curious

323 Geary St., Suite 610, San Francisco, CA 94102

Mail Address: P.O. Box 31544, SF, CA 94131

Call for current hours or appointment (415) 296-8495



THE BOOKWORM

by David W. Lange

The Coin Collectors' Pricing Guide and *The Coin Atlas*

The summer just past has produced no major stories in the field of numismatic literature, so I'll instead focus on some smaller items which might otherwise go unnoticed.

The latest attempt to dislodge Yeoman's *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, the familiar "Red Book", comes from a new spiral-bound paperback put out by JerNan Publishing of San Andreas, California. *The Coin Collectors' Pricing Guide* is a handy little book whose main emphasis is on providing up-to-date prices for all federal issues, including commemoratives. Not all grades are listed, but the coverage is comparable to what one might find in the weekly coin newspapers. The guide is being published monthly, and the issue that I examined was dated September 1990.

The editor states that all prices have been determined from a review of coin-show activity, auction results, dealer price lists and computerized network trading. In studying listings for those series with which I have experience, I found the prices to be more reflective of actual market conditions than those appearing in any other price guide I've used.

In conversation with the publisher, I was told that the current format may soon change to a newsletter format in order to effect a price reduction. It is hoped that the cost of an annual subscription may be reduced to a figure in the \$25-30 range. Another likely change is the listing of gold coin prices quarterly rather than monthly.

This publication will be no substitute for the historical information found in the "Red Book". However, it does meet the need for up-to-date prices in a way no longer possible for the annual issue from Whitman. More information regarding *The Coin Collectors' Pricing Guide* may be obtained by writing JerNan Publishing, P.O. Box 580, San Andreas, CA 95249.



The Numismatic Literary Guild announced its award winners on August 23. This year's results generated little excitement. Unlike 1989's competition in which the selection of Coin World's paperback U.S. coin guide as Book of the Year prompted expressions of dismay and outrage amongst numismatic bibliophiles, this year's winning title was fairly predictable.

While *The Coin Atlas* is a handsome and entertaining book, it is not a significant work of numismatic literature nor a scholarly work of any sort. In fairness to the NLG, I must say that it faced little competition, and the selection of some other book may have led to yet another controversy. All that can be said of the Book of the Year is

that no title truly worthy of this honor has appeared in the past year.

On a final note, I'd like to mention a few recent auction catalogs that you should seek for your bookshelf. In September, Christie's of New York sold the archival specimens of the American Bank Note Company. I had the opportunity to view this catalog at the ANA Convention in August, and it is a splendid work. While I am normally reluctant to see art auctioneers handling numismatic material, I have to congratulate Christie's on a fine production.

A couple of other catalogs that are remarkable primarily for the material being offered may also suit your taste. Classical Numismatic Auctions of Quarryville, Pennsylvania, and Beverly Hills, California, conducted a mail-bid sale in September featuring a collection of bronzes from Roman Egypt which was outstanding in its variety. In addition, the entire spectrum of classical numismatics may be found in this catalog, ranging from the earliest Greek period to the early modern era. The general attractiveness of the items being offered was such that bids were even forthcoming from this notorious collector of only American numismatica.

A catalog that I have not seen as of this writing, but which I eagerly await, is Stack's sale in October of the Allen F. Lovejoy collection of United States dimes. The sale will feature Lovejoy's specialized collection formed over a period of more than fifty years. It is believed to be the most complete variety set ever assembled and includes many "finest known" examples. ■

THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

The Pacific Coast Numismatic Society expresses its gratitude to the following sponsors for their generous financial support during 1990.

**PETER BARCHUK
DAVID F. CIENIEWICZ
PAUL D. HOLTZMAN
STEPHEN M. HUSTON
THOMAS F. KELLY
CLIFFORD L. LISS
IRENE H. LISS
DOLLY MELLINGER
FRANK J. STRAZZARINO**

Sponsors are active members who have made a financial donation to PCNS of \$50 or more in addition to regular annual dues. Sponsor's names are listed annually in the society's publications. New sponsors are always welcome and will be listed in future issues of **The Journal**.

1946 IOWA STATEHOOD
CENTENNIAL
COMMEMORATIVE
HALF DOLLAR:
Part Five



*Des Moines Day
In Numismatic History*

by Michael S. Turrini

This fifth article in the series is dedicated to Iowa's present state treasurer, the Honorable Michael L. Fitzgerald, in appreciation of his interest and cooperation with this author and the June 25, 1990, event as well as his concern in preserving and protecting a true numismatic legacy.

On Monday, June 25, 1990, a select group of six numismatists under the vigilant eyes of two state officials undertook a project that no one ever dreamed might happen. As a result, they were the first numismatists—and the first individuals—since November 1948 to visually inspect, briefly examine and ultimately repack part of the hoard of 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial commemorative half dollars. These half dollars are held in trust until Iowa's sesquicentennial, the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of statehood, in just a few short years, 1996 (1). This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is but one story, one more saga, in this series that the author has researched on this commemorative half dollar. This fifth article on the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial commemorative half dollar will record this event for numismatic posterity: how it came about, who was present and what actually happened that Monday in Des Moines, Iowa. Although conclusions as to the condition and grade of this hoard of half dollars may be appropriate to this article, only a short summary will be presented here. Additional information will be delayed until a future article.

The origin of this hoard has been extensively reviewed in the second article in this series, "500 in 1996 and 500 in 2046", published in the October 1989 issue of **The Journal**. To summarize, it was the late Governor Robert D. Blue's Executive Order (previously incorrectly referred to as a proclamation) of January 5, 1949, that declared these half dollars be retained until 1996 and 2046 in a safe-deposit box of a downtown Des Moines bank. These half dollars, other than a quick visual check annually (and a relocation of the safe-deposit box from the original bank, Iowa-Des Moines National Bank, to the current Norwest Bank-Iowa, NA) have remained undisturbed and virtually unknown since Friday, November 19, 1948.

The spark that ignited what was to occur on June 25, 1990, began with the author's continuing research and study into this commemorative half dollar which started in September 1989. This author has had extensive correspondence and telephone calls with Deputy State Treasurer Steven F. Miller. It was during one such conversation that this author proposed that he, Jan D. Henke, close friend and fellow

coin hobbyist as well as native Iowan, and Donald and Helen Carmody, noted husband-and-wife team who are nationally-recognized commemorative coinage specialists, be allowed to travel at their own expense to attend the annual cursory check of the half dollars in June 1990. Miller readily agreed. The intention remained as such for the next few months. Then, Miller, in reading some documents and records in the state treasurer's office files, learned that the half dollars may have been coated using Egyptian lacquer, a century-old coin preservative.

The preservation method suddenly became a serious matter. The method, rarely practiced today, if done properly (and this was the key concern) would prove a most correct and beneficial method for long-term storage. Remember, the objective was to retain the half dollars for up to one hundred years. Thus in January 1990, the state treasurer of Iowa, the Honorable Michael L. Fitzgerald (the custodian of the hoard for the Iowa Statehood Memorial Foundation which is the actual owner of the half dollars) approved Miller's suggestion that the group of coins being preserved for 1996, held in two small plastic boxes of two-hundred-fifty coins each, be opened, examined and transferred to appropriate coin holders.



Michael L. Fitzgerald, Iowa state treasurer, Barbara Blue Dittmar and the author display Iowa halves.

Photo provided by the author

With this decision, numerous telephone conversations and many written correspondences were exchanged over the next several months among this author, Henke, Miller, and the Carmodys. Even a summary of these involved communications would fill an entire issue of **The Journal** itself. It is sufficient to report that by May 1990 a decision had been reached: a public event would be staged within the bank. Each half dollar would be visually inspected, transferred to fifty-cent-size

Snap-Lock holders and then returned to the same safe-deposit box. In addition, the numismatic media—Numismatic News and Coin World—along with the local Des Moines broadcast and newspaper media would be invited. Last, a report would subsequently be made to the Iowa Statehood Memorial Foundation. Most importantly, only the 1996 group would be handled. The 2046 group, it was concluded, should be left untouched since that group would not be opened for another half century.

One dilemma did remain: who to invite? Space and security limited the number to a very small group. The Norwest Bank-Iowa, due to its own security regulations, instructed that the activities be confined to the vault premises. A list was finally drawn up, and invitations were sent (2). Attending, in addition to the four Californians (this author, Henke and the Carmodys), were Al Hurry and Bob Rozycki, both professional numismatists from Illinois, who provided the jewelers' trays and agreed to assist in the inspection and transfer of the half dollars. Also present were Charles L. Hanson, local Des Moines resident, Mark C. Mohlestad of the state auditor's office (this was an official state function), Miller and his superior, the Honorable Michael L. Fitzgerald, the state treasurer of Iowa. From Norwest Bank-Iowa were Jennifer C. Stitt, marketing department, who reported on the event for the bank's in-house newsletter; Gary E. Giesler, vice-president of commercial banking for the bank and host for the event; Linda Skjeveland; and Ray Forret and Dee Webster, bank security. John C. Nelson, the bank's chief executive officer, although not present, should be acknowledged for his personal interest and support of this event and for directing the bank's full cooperation.

A unique honor and a fitting tribute to this numismatic historical gathering was that the late Governor Robert D. Blue's daughter, Barbara Blue Dittmar, with her husband, Douglas Dittmar, were also present. This author can attest that Mrs. Dittmar was moved by the event since it was her late father who, as governor at the time, witnessed these same half dollars being stored into the safe-deposit box in November 1948.

The event was in the main vault and safe-deposit box examination area on the main floor, street level, of the bank which is located at 666 Walnut Street in downtown Des Moines. It began at exactly 8:30 a.m. when the automatic time lock opened the main vault.

This inspection, as it should be correctly titled, occurred in two parts. First was the opening of one box as a media opportunity; this was hosted by Fitzgerald. The local media present were the Des Moines Register and the television stations 13 (NBC/WHO) and 8 (CBS/KCCI). The television coverage made that day's noon and evening news programs, and it was front-page news in the following morning's edition of the Des Moines Register. The state treasurer opened one box, displayed a few half dollars and answered media questions. This part lasted about thirty minutes as the media, along with the curious bank employees and attendees fascinated with what was going on, took their photographs and wrote their stories.

When the media left and the first part was finished, everything was taken into a small room, about ten feet square, close to the vault. This second part lasted over three hours and was directed by Miller. It included the four Californians, Hurry, Rozycki, Miller and Mohlestad and involved the actual hands-on examination (with gloves provided by a Des Moines dental supply house) and transfer of the five hundred half dollars. Mohlestad was somewhat bemused over the fuss given

these coins.

A prescribed routine was quickly agreed. The half dollars would be removed in batches of about fourteen coins from the box. Each coin would then be unwrapped from its own anti-tarnish tissue, studied and placed into a Snap-Lock holder. Each of the numismatists would do one coin and then take another from the batch. After twenty-five were examined, the half dollars would be given to Mohlestad who would count them again and verify the number that had been placed into the coin holder boxes, the same boxes that the Snap-Locks came in. Hurry was the keeper of the box for the numismatists, counting the required twenty-five and then giving same to Mohlestad. Care was taken in handling the half dollars. Gloves (examination and white dress), jewelers' trays and a thick table cloth were used. There was no smoking. Time was not a factor; whatever time was necessary was used without interruption.

Since no one had even seen or held the coins in forty-two years, several questions had arisen: Were there exactly five hundred? How was each stored? Most importantly, what was their condition?

There were exactly five hundred half dollars. Each half dollar was individually wrapped in anti-tarnish tissue and placed on edge in rows, not rolls, of fourteen within the several individual compartments of the plastic box. The universal opinion of all present—four of whom were full-time professional numismatists—was that the half dollars were in a remarkable state of preservation. All exhibited full mint luster, extremely limited and localized toning and minimal abrasions and bag marks. Many exhibited the main characteristics of a gem Iowa half dollar: full eagle's head with strong neck feathers and complete eye. As has been reported in the numismatic press, there can be no denying that over ninety percent are MS-65 or better.

No varieties or error were discovered, yet one half dollar was identified as being different. It was named "the Jan Henke half" after Henke who first discovered it. This only unique half dollar out of the entire group was returned to the safe-deposit box along with the rest with no special identification or label. This was done because earlier in the inspection it was decided to examine, study and discuss any half dollar but in no way group, class or label any half dollar as to condition, variety or grade.

This "Jan Henke half" seems to have been minted with some unidentified substance struck onto its surface diagonally at the "h" in "statehood" on the reverse. There seemed to be no evidence of a die crack, although at first this thin line gave the impression of such. The possibility is that there might have been some grease or dirt on the die or planchet as the half dollar was minted. This half dollar is in all other respects just as beautiful and desirable as the others.

The half dollars were tightly packed on edges into the boxes which, according to the records, seemed to be an improvised last-minute choice of storage. Both boxes had been sealed around the four edges of the top cover, including the hinges, with some type of acetate glue. The boxes were wrapped once in each direction with thin copper wire. A typed label within each box at the top identified the contents, the number of half dollars and the appropriate year (1996 or 2046). This is the same for all four boxes. A future article will go into more detail on the preservation and storage of these half dollars.

When the last half dollar of the first box had been accounted, the second box was opened by this author in the presence of all fellow numismatists and the two state officials. In the struggle to do so, the author did break a small piece off the lid's edge.

When this box was finally opened, the whole process was repeated as mentioned beforehand.

When the last half dollar in this second box had been transferred and accounted, the entire complete hoard was again quickly tabulated and stored in a large cardboard shipping box, sealed and returned to safe-deposit box #3452. There are a total of twenty coin storage boxes, each with twenty-five half dollars. Miller personally returned the 1996 hoard to the safe-deposit box and locked the door. Literally everything—the now-empty two boxes, the copper wrapping wire, each and every individual wrapping tissue and the labels—was saved and now is secured in the same safe-deposit box. It is all state property, but, more importantly, it is also valuable commemorative coinage memorabilia.



Michael L. Fitzgerald, Iowa state treasurer and Steven F. Miller, deputy state treasurer, open a box containing Iowa half dollars.

Photo provided by the author.

It should also be noted that during the long process of examination and transference, a bona fide offer (backed with the money) of \$500 each was tendered for the entire five hundred half dollars. The offer was refused for obvious reasons. In addition, Donald Carmody later stated that he had received two separate inquiries on this hoard before leaving for Iowa. Both guaranteed to wire up to \$250,000 if these half dollars could be sold and were indeed as pristine as the examination would later prove.

Three galvano model plaques of this commemorative half dollar, one on loan to this author, were on display during the first part of this event—the media coverage—and generated interest among those present. These plaques, the only three known

to date, exhibit the reverse of the half dollar, the side with the eagle. Their origin and significance is still being researched, and input on these plaques is sought (4).

During the long morning's dual events, this author took both color slides and black-and-white photos. Some of the black-and-white photos were published in the July 10, 1990 issue of Numismatic News and also accompany this article.

When the event had been completed at the bank, the next activity was to inspect the twenty-three half dollars secured within the state treasurer's office vault in the Iowa State Capitol building. The four Californians met Miller and Mohlestad at the state treasurer's office in the afternoon. The only available space was a large wooden conference table within the state treasurer's personal office. So, the four Californians, Miller and Mohlestad studied and talked Iowa half dollars, all within a few feet of Fitzgerald hard at work at his desk performing his state duties of accounting for and spending Iowa's billions. These twenty-three half dollars were either in Kurtzeborn plastic holders or Snap-Locks. All are placed in small envelopes and kept in a cash box within the vault.

The origin of these half dollars, even according to available records, is in question. However, it is clear based on the inspection that these half dollars cannot be any of the first strikings or from the first fifty coins minted, which were supposedly held separately. Additional research is needed.

The following day, Tuesday, June 26, 1990, Miller drove the four Californians to Iowa City, site of the state's first capitol. There we visited the Old Stone Capitol which was featured on this commemorative and studied the papers and records of the late Ralph Evans in the University of Iowa Main Library (5).

Courtesy and kindness are the words with which this author wishes to end this article. During the entire visit to the state of Iowa, we all were treated with respect, offered cooperation, and given a most cordial welcome. The support and interest of the state treasurer, the Honorable Michael L. Fitzgerald, his assistant, Deputy State Treasurer Steven F. Miller and Mark C. Mohlestad of the state auditor's office are without question most appreciated. (The four Californians tried to make Mohlestad into a good coin hobbyist. We came close to that goal as Helen Carmody did teach him how to use a magnifying glass and grade.) Iowa is indeed blessed with two treasures: these quietly-resting half dollars in safe-deposit box #3452 and the exemplary hospitality and fellowship of the Honorable Michael L. Fitzgerald, Steven F. Miller and Mark Mohlestad. Words cannot express the four Californians' gratitude for being allowed to study a true numismatic treasure while enjoying old-fashioned courtesy and kindness.

FOOTNOTES

1. As this is a report rather than a learned monograph, a bibliography is unnecessary. The sole reference for this article is the experience of the author. The article was reviewed before publishing by Deputy State Treasurer Steven F. Miller, Jan Henke and Helen Carmody.
2. Invitations were extended to several Iowa coin dealers, but none replied nor attended.
3. This half dollar in reality has no special significance and is reported here solely for the record. Deputy State Treasurer Steven F. Miller has volunteered to search and retrieve it from the 1996 group if a detailed examination is sought.

4. Larry Adams, curator of the Mamie Doud Eisenhower Museum in Boone, Iowa, loaned the plaque to this author. Regretfully, he was not able to attend the event, but he has provided much information, input and interest to the author's research and writing.
5. A future article will reveal more about the late Ralph Evans and his extensive involvement with this half dollar in the late 1940s.

SPECIAL NOTICE

At the August 1, 1990, annual meeting of the Iowa Statehood Memorial Foundation, a report on the June 25, 1990 inspection was made by Deputy State Treasurer Steven F. Miller. His report included distribution to the foundation members copies of this author's articles to date plus issues of the July 10, 1990, *Numismatic News*. Two half dollars from the state treasurer's twenty-three were carefully shared and shown. The commemorative half dollar, the June 25 event and the eventual sale in 1996 were all discussed. Governor Terry E. Branstad appointed former Iowa governor N.A. Erbe (1961-1963), current State Treasurer Michael L. Fitzgerald and George S. Mills, citizen-member of the foundation and retired Des Moines Register political reporter to a committee to study and recommend suggestions on the 1996's group disposal. A report is anticipated for the 1991 annual meeting of the foundation sometime after June 1991.

ERRATA

An omission was made in Journal #24, July 1990 on page 11 of the Iowa Statehood Centennial article. The name of the third recipient was omitted. It should have read:

1961, Dr. Frank Spedding. Born October 22, 1902 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Noted educator and chemist. Worked on first atomic bomb. Recipient of 1962 Distinguished Iowa Citizen Award.

The editors regret this omission and any inconvenience it may have caused.

**The first mint in the western hemisphere
was authorized by Charles I of Spain
in 1535 at Mexico City.**

The Syngraphics Scene

by Ken Barr

Treasury Notes

One of the more short-lived and unusual types of federal currency issues is the Treasury note series of 1890-1891. Authorized by the Legal Tender Act of July 14, 1890, these notes were used by the Treasury Department to purchase bullion for coinage. They were explicitly redeemable "in coin", although the Secretary of the Treasury had the power to decide whether gold or silver was provided in payment. Redemption by the bullion providers in the mid-1890's practically bankrupted the Treasury and caused a major panic. Needless to say, future bullion purchases were undertaken with other types of currency!

Notes were authorized in denominations of \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1000. Only the \$1 through \$20, \$100 and \$1000 denominations were actually issued for the 1890 series, while the \$50 value was added with the 1891 versions. No \$500 notes were issued in either series, although plates were engraved and essay/proof notes were produced in 1891.



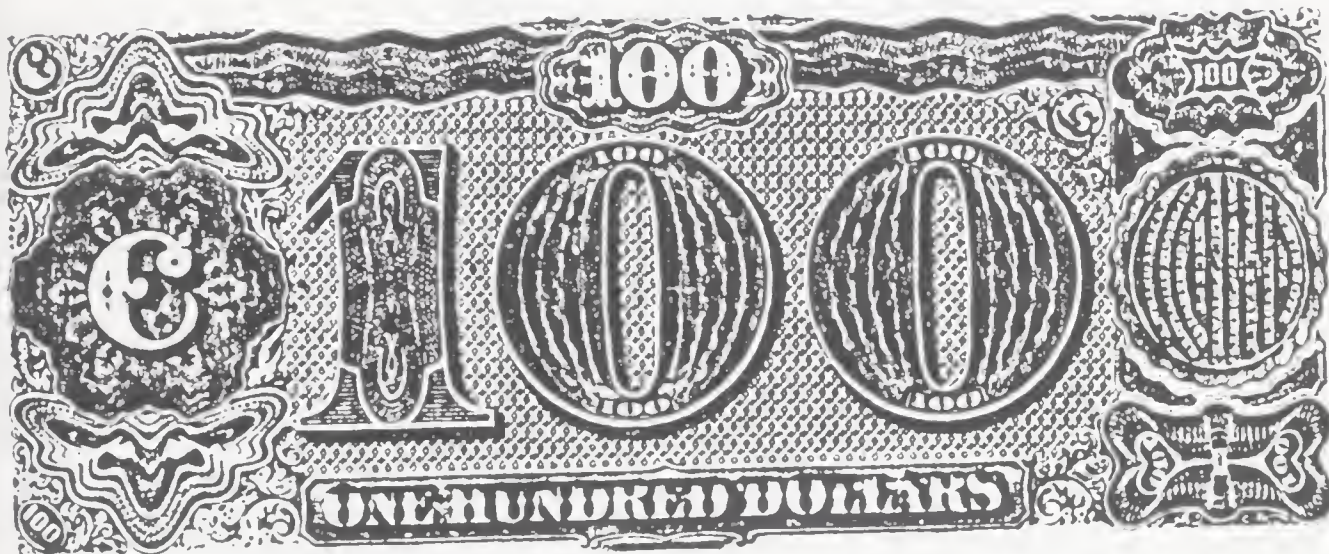
David G. Farragut pictured on the front of a \$100 Treasury note, Series 1890.

The 1890 issues are especially desired by syngraphists due to their ornate back designs. Their 1891 counterparts are much more simple and do not command the attention or premium of the earlier issues unless extremely rare. The 1890 \$100 and \$1000 denominations, especially, are extremely desirable due to their unusually styled zeros on the back, giving them the nicknames of "watermelon" and "grand watermelon" notes respectively.

Civil War personalities dominate the designs of these notes. The one dollar note features Edwin Stanton (Secretary of War, 1862-1868), the two features General James McPherson, the five General George H. Thomas, while the ten features General Philip H. Sheridan. Chief Justice John Marshall's portrait appears on the

twenty, with Secretary of State William H. Seward on the fifty, Admiral David Farragut on the hundred and General George Meade on the thousand. If issued, the five hundred would have shown General William Tecumseh Sherman.

Collecting these notes by Friedberg variety (which includes each registrar/treasurer signature combination) would be an impossible task due to the rarity of the higher denominations. According to treasury records, only about two dozen each of the \$50 and \$1000 denominations are still outstanding, with most of these unknown to collectors. In fact, only two of the 1891 \$1000's are currently reported, one of each of the two possible signature combinations! Despite this restriction on completeness, a dedicated syngraphist can put together a "short" type set at a reasonable price. The 1891 \$1 through \$10 can be obtained in circulated condition for between \$30 and \$100 with the 1890 counterparts in the \$75 to \$150 range. The \$20 denomination may take a little saving, with \$500-\$900 required for even a VG condition note. Even in higher grade, these notes are available at relatively reasonable prices with less than \$1,000 required to purchase a crisp uncirculated 1890 \$1 or \$5 and \$400 or less for a 1891 \$1, \$2 or \$5. Keep saving that change for one of the higher denominations, though, as a nice 1890 \$100 "watermelon" may run up to \$100,000 or so at auction.



\$100 'Watermelon' note, Series 1890

References and Suggestions for Further Reading:

Robert Friedberg, Paper Money of the United States, The Coin and Currency Institute
Gene Hessler, The Comprehensive Catalog of U.S. Paper Money, BNR Press

ANDRE ERNEST MODEST GRETRY ON BELGIUM'S 1000-FRANC NOTE

by George L. Smyth

Andre Ernest Modest Gretry (1741-1813) is portrayed on Belgium's 1000-franc note. This undated bill was issued by the National Bank of Belgium in 1980. The portrait is brown, a color which along with green comprises the dominant colors on this multi-colored note. The value, issuing agency and a stylized string instrument are printed with one portion in green fading to brown on the other part. The background consists of finely drawn wavy lines and diamond patterns of various colors. The bill measures 154 by 76 millimeters, smaller than the 5000-franc note and larger than the 100- and 500-franc notes and includes a dark vertical security thread.



Andre Gretry's portrait on the front of 1000-franc note.

Gretry was not a learned composer nor did he have a great knowledge of instrumentation and counterpoint, but his more than sixty operas greatly influenced the development of *opera comique* in the eighteenth century. The literal and original meaning of *opera comique* is "comic opera", though it later referred to works with spoken dialogue spread among songs or other musical numbers regardless of the dramatic content.

His musical life began as a choir-boy but showed a lack of ability. Under the sympathetic training of Moreau, he began the study of composition and by the age of seventeen had completed six small symphonies. His following work, a mass, interested ecclesiastical authorities to the point where he was enabled to attend the College de Liege. He decided to work his way to Paris, and in 1766, while working as a singing instructor in Geneva, he met Voltaire. Voltaire, impressed by the young man, encouraged him to continue his journey. Sustained by this counsel, Gretry arrived in Paris in the autumn of 1767.

Over the course of the next 35 years he became one of the dominant forces in musical Paris, prolifically producing more than fifty operas for the city within the

twenty years of his residence. During the French Revolution he allied himself with the proletariat, writing a number of popular works reflecting the new ideology. When the monarchy was restored he changed his allegiance and remained a popular and powerful figure in France's music. He was honored with a pension by Napoleon III and lived his last years in a home formerly owned by Jean Jacques Rousseau.

His insistence on the truthful and graceful settings of the *libretto* (the words of the opera) characterize his music. Charming melodies enhanced by unusual orchestration are also indicative of his style. His opera *Richard Coeur-de-Lion* (1784) was the predecessor of many "rescue" operas composed during the turn of the century. With the performance of *Pierre le Grand* (1790) and *Guillaume Tell* (1791), the rescue style spread over Europe and was featured in romantic opera everywhere. A rescue opera is one in which the hero is saved at the last moment, often by the devoted heroism of a friend. The pressures of contemporary events gave this form a timeliness and helped establish the form as a genre in its own right. His operas were never profound, but his melodious, singable style allowed him to be greatly honored during his lifetime.



Tuning forks pictured on the back of 1000-franc note.

The reverse of the bill shows, to the left, six brown fine-lined tuning forks and, to the right, a stylized multi-colored drawing of the inner ear and its auricle. The central portion of the note displays six incremental circles touching at the left representing vibrations formed by the tuning forks. In the watermark of the 1000-franc bill, as in all of Belgium's banknotes, appears the portrait of King Baudouin I who also appears on many of the current coins of the country.

Banknotes show reduced 35% in the illustrations for this article.

**The Iroquois are credited with the first use
of Wampum.**

Medals of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

An Update

by David W. Lange

As the last issue of *The Journal* was going to press, additional information appeared that completes the puzzle presented by the society's 25th anniversary medal of 1940. *The Numismatist* for October 1940 features illustrations of this medal and provides the facts which were absent when I prepared my article and catalog.

This issue of medals was coined by Patrick-Moise-Klinkner of San Francisco as correspondence reproduced in my previous article suggested. The dies were engraved by F. H. Johnson, also of San Francisco. It is not known whether Johnson was in the regular employ of the company or was commissioned specifically for this job.



PCNS Silver Jubilee Medal

The report in *The Numismatist* indicated that a "number of specimens are to be had by interested numismatists" and that the medals were priced at \$3.30 postpaid.

Within a short time of their issue, these medals began to appear at auction. M. H. Bolender's sale of May 2, 1942, listed an example and reported a record price of \$5.25 in previous sales. Of more importance, however, is the statement that 60 pieces were coined, the only instance of a mintage figure appearing in print. Coming so soon after issue, we may assume that this figure is accurate.

Bolender also described this medal as being "made of finest coin silver." While this suggests a fineness of .900 rather than the .925 sterling offered as speculation in my catalog, the meaning of the term "coin silver" may have more than one interpretation.

Since the publication of my catalog of PCNS medals in the July issue of *The Journal*, an additional entry has made its debut. Although it does not bear the society's identity, the silver medal produced jointly by PCNS and the San Francisco Coin Club does utilize our commemorative die for the society's 75th anniversary. Therefore, it may be included in the series. The following entry is added to the previously published catalog:



PCNS-San Francisco Coin Club Joint-issue Medal of 1990.

OBV. Same as #7

REV. Facing owl perched upon a branch amid pinecones, •PANAMA-PACIFIC• EXPOSITION•1915-1990•

Round, 39mm, reeded edge, .999 silver, prooflike, struck by Masterpiece Medallions of Claremont California, 132 coined, \$20 issue price.



TOPICAL NUMISMATICS SOCIETY



OFFERS FREE 1990 NEWSLETTER

The TOPICAL NUMISMATICS SOCIETY invites collectors of theme coins, medals and bank notes such as those depicting maps, ships, trains, Olympic games, stamps, plants, fish, turtles, elephants, cats, other animals, etc., to become members. The society is a not-for-profit organization that was started in late 1989 after a survey indicated such a group did not exist.

Major objectives of the society are to promote topical numismatics, provide an outlet for publishing educational information and general news about topical issues and furthering fellowship among topical devotees. A newsletter is currently published on an irregular basis but will become quarterly in 1991. Membership is complimentary for 1990, and a free newsletter will be sent on request. Dues for 1991 are anticipated to be \$12.

Address inquiries to Dennis G. Rainey, 3708 Nipomo Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90808.

THE AMOROUS ADVENTURES OF CARACALLA

A Ruse by Any Other Name Would Smell...

The ancient Roman emperors were notorious for deception, murder, theft and other acts of politics which somehow passed for diplomacy, usually disguised behind noble phrases. The Emperor Caracalla certainly deserves special attention as a "family man" in his handling of murder and intrigue.

Caracalla became Caesar under his father, the Emperor Septimius Severus. His elevation as heir to the purple came in 196 AD at the age of 8 years. His given name was Bassianus, but it was changed officially to Antoninus Pius at that time or the previous year when Septimius Severus retroactively had his own family adopted into the line of the *Antonines*, the descendants of the Emperor Antoninus Pius who had died in 161 AD. The name change was supposed to legitimize the rule of the Severans in spite of the fact that Septimius gained the throne by conquest and was unrelated to previous emperors.

The name Caracalla, by which our subject is known in history, was a nickname taken from the Gallic-styled tunic that Bassianus adopted as his preferred clothing. (It helps to have a score card to keep track of the players.)

In 198, at age 10, Caracalla was made joint ruler with his father. His brother, Geta, was made Caesar under them a few weeks later. Now Caracalla was due to inherit the empire jointly with his younger brother.

At age 14, Caracalla was married to Plautilla, a noble woman who was banished three years later when her father fell from royal favor. Caracalla was then 17, but he politely waited until he was in his 20s to have her murdered on his personal orders.

His father died in early 211 AD, leaving the Roman Empire in the hands of his two sons to rule together. It took Caracalla about one year to decide that the only acceptable way to rule Rome was *alone*. He dealt with the situation by having Geta his brother murdered in the royal palace. When Geta learned of the plan, he ran to their mother, Julia Domna, for personal protection. While contemporary reports state that he tried to hide behind her curtains or the folds of her robe, Geta was stabbed to death before his mother's eyes at the direction of Caracalla.

Family relations between the mother and surviving son naturally became strained. At the same time, Caracalla realized that the murder of his co-emperor would be politically unpopular among certain factions. He dealt with this dissent by having a large number of prominent Romans killed who were expected to complain of his behavior. Plautilla died that year. Few survivors objected.

An interesting coinage design appears several times for different reasons during the reign of the Caracalla: Venus Victrix, Venus the Victorious, showing Venus standing holding an apple or a small victory figure. Both objects indicated Venus victorious, the apple representing her *prize* for being the fairest which she grabbed, setting off a major conflict among the goddesses who felt unjustly deprived of this reward. The ensuing conflict became known as the Trojan War.

The first use of this reverse design was for Caracalla's mother, Julia Domna, to commemorate the fact that she became empress by virtue of marriage. The next occurrence was for the ill-fated Plautilla about midway through her three years of marriage to the young emperor, before her forced *retirement*.

The last use of this reverse by Caracalla was a bit more subtle. While the type had traditionally been used in conjunction with an empress or royal marriage, Caracalla used it to commemorate his success in *jilting* a Parthian princess!

The Severans had been at war with Parthia (ancient Persia) nearly continuously. By 216 AD Caracalla was not winning in this struggle, but he wanted to regain lost territory without risk of further defeat. To accomplish this, he made a treaty which would restore lands to Rome in exchange for a royal marriage between Caracalla and one of the daughters of the Parthian king, a simple and commonplace political solution to unite the two empires.



Caracalla's Venus Victrix reverse on the Antoninianus of 216 AD.

Photo by Stephen Huston

Once the lands were restored to Rome and safely occupied by Caracalla's forces, he made it clear that he had never intended to follow through with the marriage. This lovable emperor then issued a special coinage to commemorate his *victory* with the help of Venus. The "Venus Victrix" issue of 216 AD is better known among historians and collectors as Caracalla's "Parthian Treachery".

Caracalla engaged in numerous acts against the people of his empire, including the slaughter of thousands of citizens of Roman Egypt at Alexandria for joining together in public ridicule of the emperor during a visit. This bloodbath and his growing reputation as a madman led to his assassination on April 8, 217. He was not mourned by his subjects. The official who arranged the murder, Macrinus, was made emperor with the approval of the Roman Senate. One of Macrinus' notable acts as emperor was to try to patch up relations with Parthia.

Caracalla's numismatic legacy includes a new denomination of coinage, a double denarius issue which bore his official adoptive name, Antoninus. The issue was introduced to reduce the silver content by weight without affecting the denarius coinage itself. The denarius was completely abandoned a few years later. The coinage of this entire new denomination throughout the third century AD has become known as the *antoninianus*. Some people are just hard to forget.

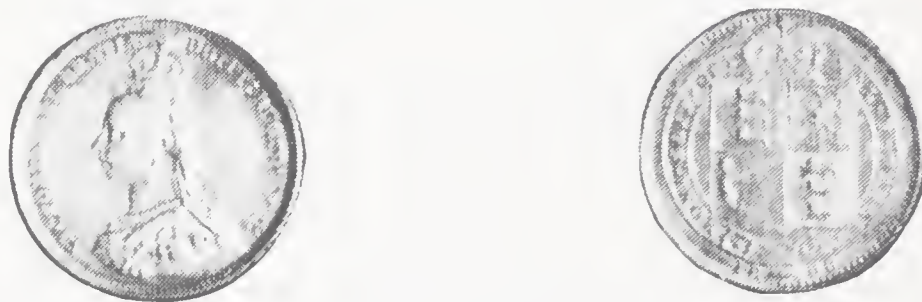
*From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston is a regular column of
The Journal which focuses on ancient and medieval times.*

A NEW VARIETY OF THE VICTORIAN SHILLING

by Dr. Howard C. Lonsdale

One of the joys of collecting nineteenth century British coins is the endless variety of strikings, overdates, die hubbings and other types of discoveries possible. By far, the majority are random and minor abnormalities as compared to those in the standard texts of Krause, Seaby, Remick, Pridmore and Bresset, to mention some of the well-known references. However, to discover what seems to be a major variety of an otherwise common date is one of the greatest joys of numismatics.

Often, the nineteenth century mints of Europe used obverse and reverse dies in separate relationships; if the obverse die seemed to wear more quickly, it may have been changed two or three times as frequently as the reverse die. Thus, varieties may have gone through transition from one year to another in the case of a holdover die. Similarly, if a year ended with some dated dies in good condition, one or two numerals may have been punched over rather than discarding the entire die. Often, the die was near its end, so the overdates are scarce. However, if the die or dies were new, a major percentage of the overdate would circulate.



Such seems to be the case with the 1888/7 Jubilee Victoria shilling. Ken Bresset, in a footnote on page 66 of A Guide Book of English Coins, makes note that traces of a "7" can be noted under the final "8", but no prices, mintages or frequencies are mentioned. These coins are usually found in worn condition with much debris in the lettering. The old saying of "never clean the coins" has meant that many dates cannot be clearly seen even under magnification. I like a clean coin, not a buffed one. My reasons are hygienic as well as practical. Many of my coins are more attractive and identifiable.

In reviewing my groups of 1888 shillings, I discovered traces of a "7" under the final "8" in three out of seven or almost half of the dates. One is in a strong very fine condition. Personal communications with F. Shaskan have brought out at least three more specimens of this variety.

I believe this variety occurs in sufficient incidence to qualify as a major variety and deserves a listing as such. It may even be common.

Note from Journal Staff: A study of English silver coinage published by Seaby indicates that the 1888 shilling is scarce, suggesting only a few dies were used. This increases the likeliness of this overdate from a single die making up a significant proportion of the surviving specimens.



MEDALS ROUND-UP



LIBERTY NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The Liberty Numismatic Society (LNS) of San Mateo has just released its 1990 medal. The design commemorates the Earthquake of October 17, 1989, depicting the San Francisco Ferry Building with its bent flag staff and its clock stopped at 5:04 pm.



Specifications

Minted by Masterpiece Medallions, Claremont, CA.

Designed by: Obverse — David W. Lange

Reverse — LNS logo

Diameter: 39mm round

Mintage: Silver (.999, 1oz.) 100 numbered

Oxidized Bronze 150

Golden Bronze 51

Aluminum 3

Oxidized Copper 3

Copper 3

Lead 3 normal

Lead 1 uniface

Ordering Information: Oxidized bronze are \$3 each. The silver is sold out. Make checks to Liberty Numismatic Society, P.O. Box 844, Millbrae, CA 94030.

WANTED

Your Articles

for

THE JOURNAL

Write to the Editors.



CALVIN J. ROGERS

Classical Numismatics

Write for our fully-illustrated catalogs of Ancient and Medieval Coins

Calvin J. Rogers
Jeanette Rogers
ANS SAN ANA

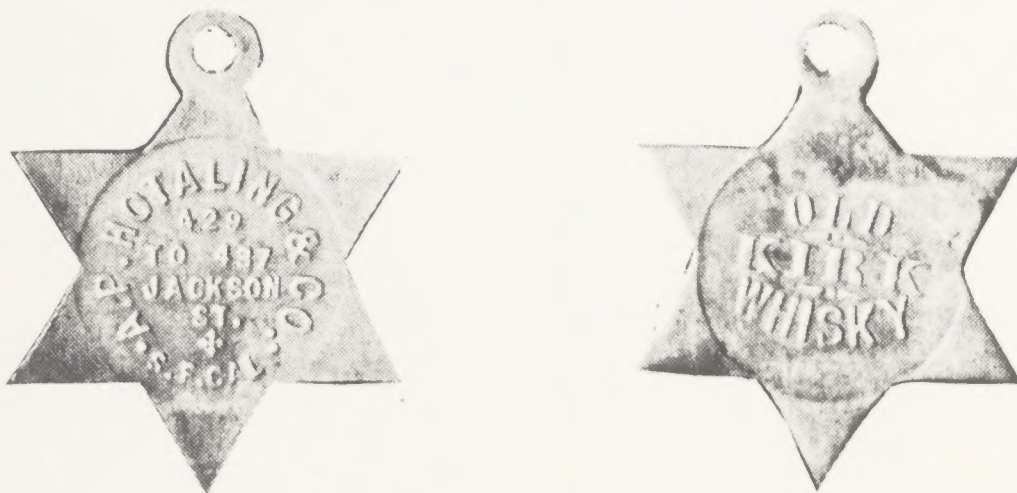
P.O. Box 7233
Redwood City, CA 94063
(415) 369-1508

SAN FRANCISCO THROUGH ITS TOKENS

A. P. Hotaling & Co.

by Jerry F. Schimmel

The A.P. Hotaling Company began business in San Francisco in the early 1870s at the address listed on the piece shown. In fact, the firm remained there through the Earthquake, Prohibition and World Wars I & II. This is a brass advertising piece in the shape of a six-point star, 38mm in diameter, with a loop added for suspension. The legend reads: **A.P. HOTALING & CO., 429 TO 437 JACKSON ST., S.F. CAL.; OLD KIRK WHISKY.** Its main purpose was, of course, to advertise this brand, one of many carried by the firm, and was probably given out by salesmen to saloon owners or possibly tied around bottles sold.



The Hotaling firm was a wholesale liquor supply house located in the heart of the Barbary Coast and probably supplied most of the saloons, dance halls and clip joints to be found in the area. When old A.P. Hotaling died, the firm incorporated into a family-operated establishment. Amazingly, while the rest of the Barbary Coast burned down in the 1906 fire, this building survived due to the efforts of a group of sailors who ran a fire hose two miles from the Bay to save the source of their favorite beverages! The building still stands and is a part of the Jackson Square decorators' row. The little alley adjoining the building is appropriately named Hotaling Place.

During Prohibition, the company sold pharmaceuticals and soft drinks, but as soon as Repeal came, it went back into the liquor business which lasted through World War II.

Reference

The Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, 1906 by Denevi and Saul (1981).



ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL COINS

Fixed Price and Auction Catalogues



Write for lists, issued regularly

STEPHEN M. HUSTON

Classical Numismatist

P.O. Box 193621
San Francisco, CA 94119 – USA

(415) 781-7580

582 Market Street, Suite 1108, in San Francisco

Weekdays by Appointment Only